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## 'The Minutemen Is Unique'

Stores of weapons and explosives, as well as evidence of field encampments, have been uncovered from the San Diego area, to Virginia, to New Jersey.

The paramilitary, of course, takes in a number of groups other than those already mentioned. The Fruit of Islam, an arm of the Black Muslims, is among them. So is the American Nazi party.

But perhaps the best-organized, and certainly the best-known, is the Minutemen, which admits its brand of conservatism is so special that the John Birch Society advises conservatives to stay away because it is too extreme.

To view the Minutemen, it is necessary to visit Norborne, a dusty little farm town of 950 that is about 70 miles east of Kansas City.

It is here that Robert Bolivar DePugh, 42, has his veterinary drug business, Biolab Corp., and where Bob DePugh goes, so goes the business of the Minutemen.

By DePugh's reckoning, America already is in World War III. Instead of Soviet troops swarming over American soil, he sees a sinister takeover from within, claiming that Presidents Roosevelt, Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy and Johnson successively contributed to making it easy for the Communists. He expects an open takeover in from six to 10 years.

On what does he base this prediction?

"On the information we have gathered and analysis of this material," answers DePugh. He says the Minutemen has access to confidential and secret material because "we have infiltrated every major agency and department of the government, including the FBI and CIA."

The FBI dismisses such claims as fantasies.

In the Minutemen order of things, a correspondence training course and field training ultimately brings assignments from the movement leaders. Some of these are described in Minutemen literature. An undercover agent of the California State Department of Justice, according to Atty. Gen. Thomas C. Lynch, reported some of the things discussed during Minutemen field exercises in the San Diego countryside last Aug. 28-29.

Harassment of left-wingers: Communist sympathizers and Communists, the agent reported, was to be accomplished by pouring gasoline into their swimming pools, making middle-of-the-night telephone calls, sowing roofing tacks in parking areas of Communist meetings, placing prankster-type bombs—which smoke and whistle—in automobiles, and joining in left-wing-inspired peace marches as a sympathizer while wearing dirty clothing and behaving as obnoxiously as possible.

The agent also reported that sabotage and assassinations techniques were on the agenda.

All these things certainly fit into the grand plan as conceived by Robert Bolivar DePugh. During some recent interviews at his business headquarters in Norborne, at one of the Minutemen houses in the town, and at the Minutemen's first headquarters in Independence, Mo., DePugh spoke of the founding of the organization, its membership and some of its views. "We can come up here and fight on as a guerrilla band." Later, we did think seriously about what we could do. And that is how we began."

Recruiting — "For example, we might circulate a petition calling for House Un-American Activities Committee hearings in Kansas City. We'd then use the names to invite people to attend a kargle course. No one

would know that it was under our sponsorship. We'd observe the people at the course for several weeks and spot potential members. We also get potential members from such organizations as the Paul Revere Associated Yeomen."

Weapons stockpiling — "Minutemen are urged to own their own weapons and equipment. Nothing is owned by the organization. What we are interested in now is not stockpiling machine guns but in getting the tools to make the weapons. It is better to buy one lathe than a dozen machine guns. Do you know how easy it is to make a submachine gun? It is very simple. We want to be able to make every nut and screw for every thing we need."